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U. S. Department of Agriculture

CATALOG
and
PRICE LIST

of
SWANSON'S
Spore Culture
MUSHROOM
SPAWN

Swanson's Pure Culture Spawn

Being one of the oldest mushroom growers in this country I have had the opportunity of watching the development of this industry from almost its very start.

My growing experience taught me that many poor crops could be attributed to carelessly and poorly made spawn which induced me to make an intensive study of mushroom spawn and to learn how to produce it so that my crops would always be dependable.

By keeping in close touch with the scientists who discovered this better method of producing spawn I was able to learn all about these new discoveries, to keep abreast with the times and to produce spawn of such quality that I could be justly proud of.

I had no intention at that time, of becoming a spawn manufacturer or of ever putting any of it on the market. but my friends and neighbors in the business, like myself, insisted on my making spawn for them. So we began to manufacture back in 1896. At that time it was called brick spawn. Three-fourths of a pound to a square foot was then considered to be a good crop. Now our pure culture bottle spawn will average as much as one and one-half pounds, in many cases two and sometimes three pounds to the square foot.

Our spawn is grown from spores taken from carefully selected mushrooms from highly productive beds. The laboratory where the spawn is planted is sanitary in every way and compares favorably with a hospital operating room in cleanliness, even the air is washed and filtered. This is practically insurance to the grower that the spawn is uncontaminated, vigorous because its growth is not interrupted or interfered with during its growing period and will produce a wonderful crop if proper conditions are furnished for it to grow in.

Further assurance is this, we experiment with new varieties of spawn every year at considerable expense to our concern in order to give the mushroom grower the finest variety obtainable. We take pride in our spawn and we assure the growers the most highly productive spawn on the market backed by thirty-eight years of experience in spawn making.

As I said at the start I have watched the mushroom industry grow from its infancy and I realize that the time has arrived when the danger of over production is alarming, for this reason, unlike many other spawn manufacturers I am not furnishing a book of instructions, I am not interested in starting new growers in the business even though I might increase my spawn business by so doing.

I am interested alone in the grower who has invested his savings in a plant and is devoting all his time to making a success of the mushroom business and it is my desire to be able at all times to supply such growers with good reliable spawn so that they may at least have the assurance of having a good paying crop.

My policy therefore is to sell only to established growers who have their own method of producing mushrooms and whose success is due to their own practical experience coupled with good spawn. We aim to cooperate with our customers in this respect.

My spawn has been on the market for many years and has been used by a great many experienced growers who know what to look for and expect in spawn and it has at all times proved its worth. This season we will again have some very good spawn to offer our customers.

We have three varieties of white and one of cream, one bottle planting fifty square feet in beds. We can save our customers more than one-half of the express charges on the spawn if we break the bottles and ship only the spawn, if used immediately. In this pamphlet you will find a few testimonials from old reliable growers who have used my spawn for years.

Varieties of Spawn



SWAN WHITE

A very good white variety which we have had for quite a number of years and which has been improved by us, it gives a very heavy crop of mushrooms, lasts from five to six months in bearing and is very dependable.

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DUGGAR'S WHITE

A new variety originated by Dr. Duggar in Madison, Wisconsin. Dr. Duggar has the distinction of being the first person to make pure culture spawn in the United States. This variety is very prolific. It is a nice formed mushroom and bears continuously from five to six months.

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BENSONVILLE WHITE

A new variety which originated with us. A good producer, a fine mushroom and continues in bearing a long time.

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No. 15 LIGHT CREAM

A very good light cream variety which originated with us. Has been tried for about seven or eight years and has always given very good crops. Do not be confused, it is not the large dark brown mushroom you sometimes see on the market. It is light colored and a very desirable mushroom. A great many people ask for it and buy it in preference to the white varieties. A good shipping mushroom, some dealers will not buy any other kind and some growers will not grow any other kind. I can highly recommend it to you.

The price of our spawn is as follows:

One to three cases — sixty cents a bottle
Four cases or more — fifty cents a bottle

PRICES F. O. B. DES PLAINES

12 bottles to a case — We do not ship less than one case.

Orders should now be sent in for summer and fall deliveries. Address all orders to

PAUL SWANSON

MANNHEIM RD.

Telephone Des Plaines 3072-J

DES PLAINES, ILL.

Testimonials...

RECOMMENDATIONS

For a number of years I have planted my first house with spawn which I purchase from all the reliable spawn manufacturers in this country, in order to get a line on the quality each was producing and to guide me in choosing which I should use for the bulk of my planting. A proportion of your spawn was planted in this house each year and I wish to let you know that over a period of ten years your spawn brought just as good a crop and the mushrooms were of just as good quality as the spawn of the other manufacturers. I would not hesitate to use your spawn or to recommend it to my friends, in fact, I have already done both.

A. V. JACKSON

Naperville, Illinois.

Mr. Jackson is the largest mushroom grower in Illinois.

HERTER BROS.
MUSHROOMS
Villa Park, Ill.

March 25, 1935

Mr. Paul Swanson
Des Plaines, Ill.
Dear Mr. Swanson:

We are very glad to learn that you will have spawn this year in time for the early fall crop.

For the last few years we have been using nothing but your spawn with the best results. With the exception of last year, as you know, we had spawn from three different concerns and are very glad to let you know that your spawn proved to be the most satisfactory.

Yours very truly,

EH/WH EDWARD HERTER

April 18th. 1904
Anacostic, D. C.
Box 117

Dear Sir:

The spawn is doing well, the mushrooms are fine and a good cropper. They grow so large some of them weigh 18 oz. each and white as cotton. Can you send me some more as good as that was. White is what I want. I will want some in July.

Yours truly,

W. M. WEST

April 5, 1935

Mr. Paul Swanson
Dear Sir:

The last spawn we have purchased from you is bearing very well, and have obtained two very good crops already. We hope that this spawn will bring us the same good crops as all the other spawn did, we have had from you for many years and often picked up to 1½ lbs. to the sq. foot.

Very truly yours,

Dempster Mushroom Plant